

MARVEL

#11

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS®

**MARK WAID
MIKE DEL MUNDO**

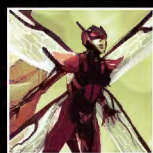




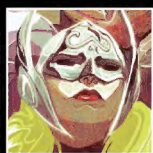
THIS
AUGURS
POORLY.

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE AVENGERS



WASP
Nadia Pym



THOR
Jane Foster



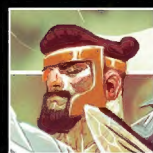
CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION



SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker



HERCULES

The Hydra Empire has fallen, and Sam Wilson and his team of Avengers were instrumental in taking it down. But the battle was not without casualties--Parker Industries was forced to close shop, leaving the Avengers without financial backing...or a headquarters. And many of them are still coping with the emotional scars of being betrayed by one of their own...

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The Avengers created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby

MANHATTAN.
~~THE DAXTER BUILDING.~~
~~PARKER INDUSTRIES.~~
YOUR NAME HERE.

IT'S ALWAYS
FUN TO HEAR YOU
TALK, HERCULES.

AGGH!
MY LAVA
LAMP!

WASP, VISION,
THOR...LOOK! ANOTHER
SUBTLE CLUE AS TO WHY
OUR AVENGERS IDENTICARDS
WON'T EVEN LET US IN THE
FRONT DOOR!

I KNEW
SOMETHING
WAS UP WHEN MY
IDENTICARD WENT DARK.

BEARY-
BEAR!

PARKER
INDUSTRIES HAS
BEEN DISSOLVED.
THE BUILDING
SOLD. AND WITH IT,
OUR TOP-FLOOR
HEADQUARTERS.

WOULD THAT
I COULD MOVE
WITH SUCH
ALACRITY.

ALACRITY IS
THE WORD.
WHOEVER EVICTED
US DIDN'T EVEN
BOTHER TO PACK
FOR US.

...SO, PRESUMABLY,
THEY'RE ASSETS IN HIS
BANKRUPTCY.

WE THOUGHT
WE COULD
TRUST THAT MAN.
WHAT A--

FORTUNATELY,
THIS SEEMS ONLY
TO BE A MIXTURE OF
FURNISHINGS AND
PERSONAL EFFECTS. THERE
IS NO EVIDENCE THAT
ANY PROPRIETARY
EQUIPMENT WAS
DISCARDED.

WHATEVER
CRITICAL DEVICES
WE POSSESSED WERE
GIFTED TO US BY
PETER PARKER...



AH, I GUESS YOU GUYS'VE HEARD ABOUT PARKER.



YEAH, WE HEARD. NOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT A **JERK** HE IS.

HE'S... NOT SO BAD...

ISN'T HE? HE RAN HIS ENTIRE COMPANY INTO THE GROUND WITH FAULTY PRODUCTS!*

*THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD THINKS, ANYWAY! SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31! --TOM



INTO THE GROUND!

WELL... YEAH, BUT...



HE SEEMS TO HAVE MANAGED HIS AFFAIRS RATHER IRRESPONSIBLY.

PERHAPS HE HADN'T TIME TO NOTIFY ALL HIS EMPLOYEES AND DEBTORS, BUT BY NOT ALERTING US IN TIME TO NEGOTIATE A TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT...

I APOLOGIZE. WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?





TELL ME ABOUT IT! WHATTA DOPE, THAT GUY! THE WORST OF THE WORST!

BOY, IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON PARKER RIGHT THIS MINUTE, I'D THROTTLE HIM! BUT, Y'KNOW.

HE'S GONE. HE'S CERTAINLY NOT RIGHT HERE. NO CHANCE. NOPE.

HE'S PROBABLY SOMEWHERE VERY FAR AWAY.

DEFINITELY NOT WITHIN HERCULES' REACH.



OKAY. WELL.

I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE ANY URGENT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, ANYWAY.

OTHER THAN SECURING A NEW HEADQUARTERS.

OTHER THAN SECURING A NEW HEADQUARTERS.



CAN WE REVISIT THAT LATER?

I JUST REALIZED THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH THOR. PRIVATELY. NO OFFENSE.

LEAD THE WAY.

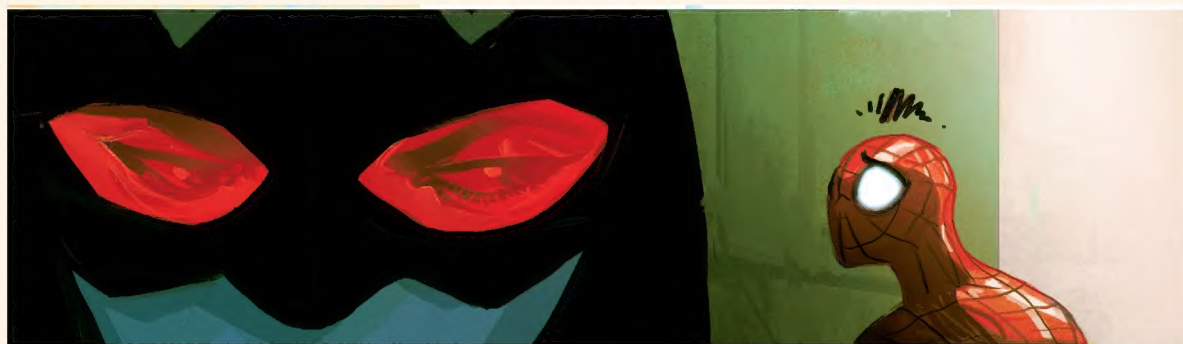


THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS WITH YOU AS WELL, HERCULES. IF YOU'VE TIME?



FOR YOU, MY FRIEND? ALE AND GOOD CONVERSATION AWAIT.

HEY! WHOA! I'VE GOT TIME! GUYS, DON'T LEAVE ME HERE WITH--





♪♪♪
AWK-WARD.
♪♪♪



HO-HO-HOLD UP.

I GET IT. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME, EXCEPT I **DON'T** GET IT.

WHAT? WHAT DID I **DO**? I **SWATTED** A WASP WHEN I WAS EIGHT. WAS HE A **RELATIVE**?



YOU JUST RUB ME THE WRONG WAY.

I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE **EVERYBODY** I MEET.



FINE! JANET PYM-WASP USED TO EVIL-EYE ME, **TOO**.

SHE USED TO SAY THAT WASPS AND SPIDERS WERE **NATURAL ENEMIES**, WHICH MAKES **NO SENSE** AND IS **TOTALLY NOT TRUE**, YOU CAN **GOOGLE** IT.

BUT.

... FOLLOW ME, ALL RIGHT? I WANT TO TAKE YOU SOMEPLACE.



WHERE? WHERE IS IT?

OH, GOD, PLEASE JUST ONCE TRUST ME, ALL RIGHT?



I WILL SAY THIS--BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA KEPT ME ON THE GROUND WAY-HAY-HAY TOO MUCH.



IS THAT DELIGHT IN YOUR VOICE?

ARE YOU NOT AT ALL REGRETFUL THAT YOU CEDED CAPTAINSHIP BACK TO STEVE ROGERS?

NOPE.

DON'T GET ME WRONG. I SERVED THAT ROLE FAITHFULLY AND, AT TIMES, QUITE WELL. AT TIMES.

BUT LET'S PUT A PIN IN THAT FOR A SEC.

FIRST, I WANT TO GO BACK TO A CONVERSATION WE HAD MONTHS AGO.




ARE YOU STILL DEALING WITH...IT EVERY TIME YOU RETURN TO YOUR MORTAL SELF? AND IT STILL JUST GETS WORSE EACH TIME?



YOU CAN SAY "CANCER," SAM. I'VE STARED THE DEMON SURTUR IN THE EYE. A WORD DOESN'T RATTLE ME. AND YES.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD THE OTHERS?



I PROMISED
YOU I
WOULDN'T.

AND
SO?

I ALSO
PROMISED THAT IF
I EVER DECIDED THAT
YOU WERE ON A SUICIDE
RUN FOR A GRAND NORSE
WARRIOR'S DEATH,
I'D INTERVENE.


AND I
WAS WRONG.
I DON'T GET A
SAY IN YOUR
FATE.

I BECAME
CAPTAIN AMERICA
BECAUSE STEVE
CHOSE ME AS HIS
SUCCESSOR.

I WAS
HONORED,
ABSOLUTELY. IT
WAS A TOUGH JOB,
VERY TOUGH, BUT
YOU DON'T SAY NO
TO A CHANCE TO
DO THAT, BE
THAT.

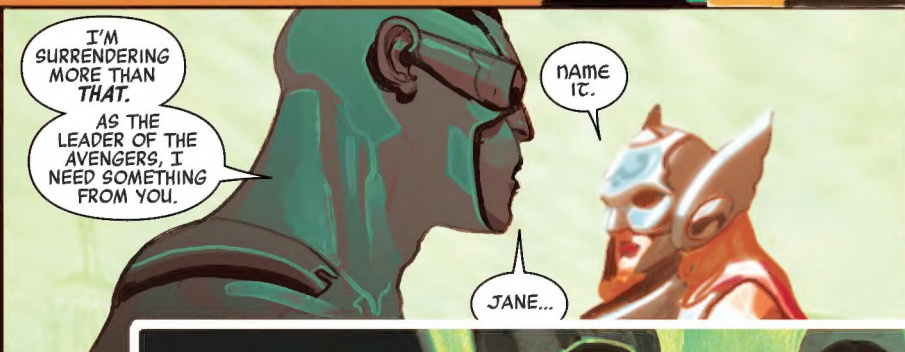
BUT I WILL
BE HONEST WITH
YOU AND CONFESS
THAT THERE WERE
MOMENTS--**MOMENTS**--
WHEN IT FELT MORE
LIKE AN OBLIGATION
THAN A CALLING.

TIMES WHEN
I ALMOST
RESENTED STEVE
FOR CHANGING
MY LIFE FOR
ME.



NO ONE
ELSE BUT YOU
GETS TO PICK YOUR
PATH, IS WHAT I'M
SAYING. SO...

NO
REGRETS IN
SURRENDERING
THE SHIELD,
THEN.




I'M
SURRENDERING
MORE THAN
THAT.

AS THE
LEADER OF THE
AVENGERS, I
NEED SOMETHING
FROM YOU.

NAME
IT.

JANE...



...I NEED
YOU TO LEAD
THIS TEAM.



THEY SAID
THEY WERE OUT
OF MEAD.

THANK
YOU FOR TRYING,
THOUGH I ADMIT I
AM STILL ATTEMPTING
TO REHABILITATE
MY BAWDY
IMAGE.

AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!
YOU HAD
THOUGHTS TO
SHARE?

QUESTIONS,
REALLY.

KCH

RECENTLY,
I LEARNED
THAT RATHER
THAN POSSESSING A
NORMAL, HUMAN LIFE
EXPECTANCY, MY
SYNTHETIC FORM
WILL LIVE...NEARLY
FOREVER.

WE FOUGHT
ALONGSIDE THE
FUTURE "ME" AT THE
END OF TIME. HAVING
AUTHENTICATED HIS
MEMORIES, I REQUIRE
NO FURTHER EVIDENCE
OF MY OWN
LONGEVITY.

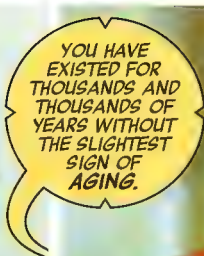
HERCULES...



...WHAT IS
IT LIKE TO BE
IMMORTAL?



HMMM.



YOU HAVE EXISTED FOR THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF AGING.



THANK YOU.



WHAT IS IT "LIKE"? IT JUST...*IS*.



WE OLYMPIANS CONSIDER *OUR* LIFE SPANS TO BE THE NORM, AND EVERYONE *ELSE'S* TO BE THE EXCEPTION.



I'M NOT FULLY *IMMORTAL*, MY FRIEND. I DO NOT EVEN CONSIDER MYSELF TO BE ESPECIALLY *LONG-LIVED*. INSTEAD, SADLY...

...I CONSIDER *HUMANS* TO BE ESPECIALLY *SHORT-LIVED*.



I AM PLEASED IN RETROSPECT THAT WE TOOK THIS CONVERSATION AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

IT HAS TAKEN AN UNEXPECTEDLY SOBERING TONE.



THEN WE MUST PARTAKE OF LIFE'S INTOXICATIONS.



WE MUST REVEL.



WHAT A
LOVELY YOUNG
GIRL.

SHOULD I TURN
AWAY FROM HER FOR
AN INSTANT, I WOULD
TURN **BACK** TO SEE HER
GRANDCHILDREN.



I FAIL
TO SEE THE
NEED FOR
REVELING.

WHEN I
FIRST VISITED
MIDGARD AS A
VERY YOUNG
MAN--



--WELL,
I WAS
EXILED,
BUT THAT IS
ANOTHER
STORY--

--EVERYTHING
AND EVERYONE
HERE MOVED WITH
THE SPEED OF
MERCURY.

I WOULD
MAKE A FRIEND
OR BED A LOVER
ONLY TO FIND THEM
LONG DEAD BEFORE
MY HAIR COULD
GROW.

IT BECAME
PAINFUL TO HAVE
RELATIONSHIPS,
TO BOND.

SO I
CHOSE TO DO
NEITHER.



YOU MUST
HAVE BEEN VERY
LONELY.

TREMENDOUSLY.
THE MORE I DWELLED
UPON IT, THE MORE
WITHDRAWN I
BECAME.

SO
I STOPPED
DWELLING.



THAT IS WHAT I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO, MY BROTHER. YOU ALREADY MOVE THROUGH THIS WORLD SOMEWHAT REMOVED.

IT WOULD DEVASTATE ME TO WATCH THAT INTENSIFY AS YOU RUMINATE TOO HEAVILY ON HOW IMMORTALITY WILL CHANGE YOU.

OVER THE MILLENNIA TO COME, YOU WILL EXPERIENCE EMOTIONS YOU DON'T YET KNOW ARE EVEN POSSIBLE.

THE ONLY ONE THAT WILL KEEP YOU *SANE* IS *JOY*.



DO NOT WASTE TIME MOURNING FOR THOSE WHOM YOU *OUTLIVE*.

INSTEAD, REVEL IN THEIR FRIENDSHIPS.

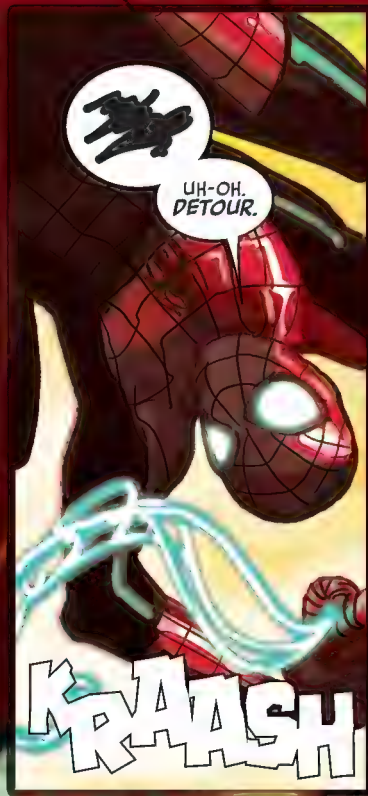
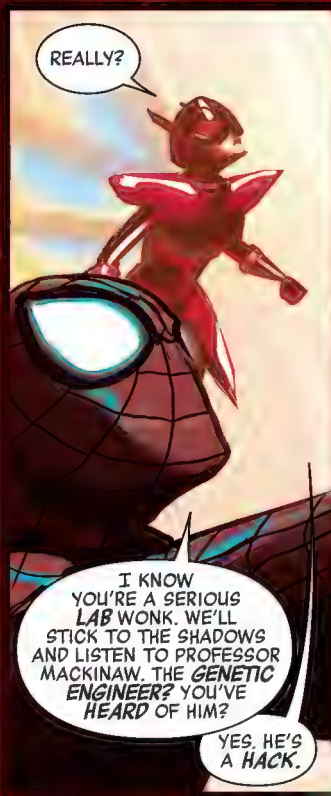


IF YOU SAVOR THEM TO THEIR *FULLEST*, FOREVER REMEMBERING THOSE YOU MEET ALONG YOUR WAY, THE LONELINESS IS TEMPERED...



...BECAUSE THEY SHALL THEN BE IMMORTAL, TOO.

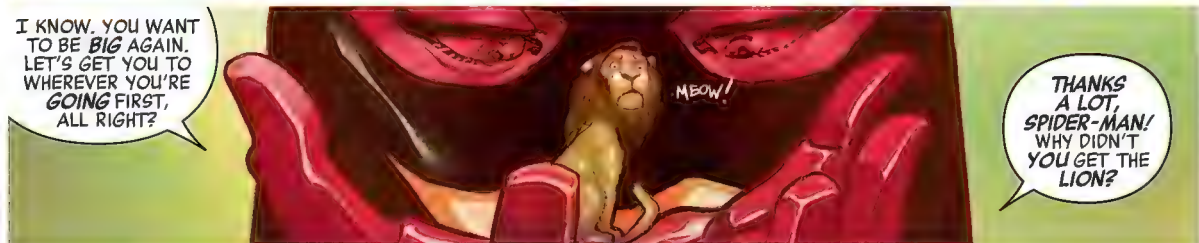








BAD KITTY!
BAD!



I KNOW. YOU WANT
TO BE *BIG* AGAIN.
LET'S GET YOU TO
WHEREVER YOU'RE
GOING FIRST,
ALL RIGHT?

MEOW!

THANKS
A LOT,
SPIDER-MAN!
WHY DIDN'T
YOU GET THE
LION?



FORGIVE
ME.

I WAS
WRANGLING
MARMOSETS.

THEY'RE
MACAQUES. NOT
MARMOSETS.



I CAN
SCIENCE TOO,
OKAY?



OF COURSE YOU THINK EVERY
MONKEY'S A MACAQUE. THOSE
ARE LAB MONKEYS. MARMOSETS
ARE PERFORMERS.

THOSE ARE
MACAQUES.

OH, MY
GOD, WILL YOU
ARGUE WITH ME
ABOUT LITERALLY
ANYTHING?!



I SURRENDER!
WE WILL NEVER,
EVER BE ON THE
SAME PAGE,
EVER.

THWIPP

THWIPP



I DON'T
EVEN WANNA GO
TO THE *FAIR* NOW.
I'M SWEATY AND I
SMELL LIKE
CURIOUS
GEORGE.

YOU
DO.



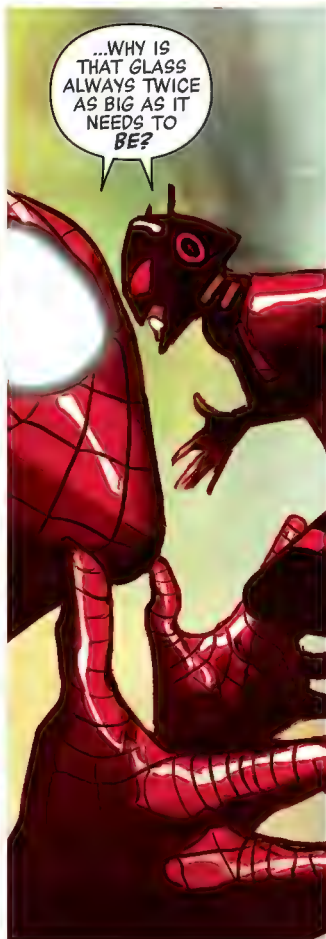
BUT WE
GOT TO HELP
SOME NEAT
ANIMALS!

WE MISSED
A GREAT *LECTURE*,
WHICH IS JUST
ABOUT MY *LUCK*.



WHY IS YOUR
GLASS ALWAYS
HALF *EMPTY*?

WHY IS *YOURS*
PERPETUALLY HALF
FULL? MORE
IMPORTANTLY...



...WHY IS
THAT GLASS
ALWAYS TWICE
AS BIG AS IT
NEEDS TO
BE?



PARKER'S
STILL A JERK,
THOUGH.

WHATEVER.



YOU WANT ME TO LEAD.

ARE YOU RETIRING AS CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON?



NO. WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?



BECAUSE THE ONLY OTHER EXCUSE IS ASININE.

PARDON ME, BUT YOU'RE NOT A MIND READER. YOU DON'T KNOW WHY I'M ASKING YOU TO--



YOU'VE TOLD YOURSELF THAT IF YOU'RE NOT CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE OF RUNNING THE TEAM.



WOW. YOU ARE A MIND READER.

WHAT NUMBER AM I THINKING OF?

FIVE.

THIRTY-TWO.



FIVE. YOU'RE THINKING OF FIVE TEAMMATES WHO AUTOMATICALLY DEFER TO THE STARS AND THE STRIPES AND THE SHIELD.



AND THAT'S NOT ME ANYMORE.

DO YOU SEE THAT AS A **DEMOTION** OF SOME SORT? ARE YOU **LESSER** BECAUSE YOU'RE DOWN TO TWO SYLLABLES FROM SIX?



OF COURSE NOT.

I AM FINE BEING WHO I AM. BUT (A) THE **FACE** OF THE AVENGERS IS TRADITIONALLY A **POWER PLAYER**...

...AND (B) I WOULDN'T MIND BEING OUT OF THE **SPOTLIGHT** FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



WH...WHY?

BECAUSE IT WILL **HURT** LESS WHEN I START HAMMERING YOU IN THE HEAD.

AVENGERS DO NOT DEFER TO A **COSTUME**. SAM WILSON.



WE TAKE GUIDANCE FROM A GOOD, EXPERIENCED MAN WHO IS A POWER PLAYER...

...BECAUSE HE HAS LEARNED FROM THE BEST AND THEREFORE HAS MUCH TO TEACH US.

THAT IS THE ONLY QUALIFICATION THE JOB REQUIRES.



MOREOVER, I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT YOU ARE NOT THE FACE OF THE TEAM.

I'M NOT?



IT'S SPIDER-MAN. HE'S THE ONE WHO GETS THE MOST PUBLIC ATTENTION WHEN WE'RE IN THE FIELD.

HE'S THE ONE EVERYONE RECOGNIZES IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE, UNLIKE THE REST OF US, HE'S ALWAYS LOOKED FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME.

SPIDER-MAN.

I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE SHARING, SAM. I TRULY DO, BUT STOP OVERTHINKING.

SOME ROLES YOU ASSUME, BUT OTHERS YOU'RE BORN INTO.



GOOD SPEECH. THANK YOU, OKAY. I RESCIND MY OFFER. I--

BOOP



HANG ON. IT'S MY BREAKING NEWS APP.

AND WE HAVE A SITUATION.

AND I NEED THE TEAM, BUT WITH NO IDENTICARDS, I HAVE NO WAY OF CONTACTING THEM.

ALERT

ALLOW ME.



YOU
GAVE A
SIGNAL?

YEAH.
LISTEN UP.

THE **TITANIUM
MAN** AND THE
CRIMSON DYNAMO
HAVE ROLLED UP ON THE
AMERICAN EMBASSY.
INJURIES, NO FATALITIES
YET, BUT 35
HOSTAGES.

NO **QUINJET**,
SO **VISION**, YOU
TAKE **HERC**. **THOR**,
YOU TAKE
SPIDER-MAN.



I CAN
DO IT.

THOR'S STRONGER,
HAVING A PASSENGER
MAKES YOU **SLOWER**.
TIME'S OF THE
ESSENCE.



GOTCHA. ANY
MORE ORDERS,
CAPTA--

--FALCON,
SIR?

JUST
ONE.





**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**

NEXT: "WORLDS COLLIDE"

NEXT:

"WORLDS COLLIDE" BEGINS!

MARVEL

LEGACY

WORLDS COLLIDE

PART 1

672



THE AVENGERS



In the wake of CIVIL WAR II, the Champions left the Avengers in search of a better way to change the world. But with the fate of Planet Earth on the line, can the old guard and the new guard reunite to fight for what's right?



- AVENGERS #672
- CHAMPIONS #13
- AVENGERS #673
- CHAMPIONS #14
- AVENGERS #674
- CHAMPIONS #15

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AN  ROBOROS
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